

EDITORIAL

With the publication of Volume 10 Mauri Ora has been in print for a decade. As well as 10 annual volumes of the journal, two special publications - Christchurch Air Pollution, 1977 and Ecology of Kowhai Bush, Kaikoura, 1979 have been produced. In Volume 10 we have included a fully cross referencing index to Volumes 1-10 and the special publications.

The original aim of Mauri Ora was to provide a journal in which undergraduate student research projects and graduate research could be published and circulated to a wide scientific audience. Looking back we feel that this original aim has been achieved. Mauri Ora has also published papers from a variety of other sources, notably staff members from the Botany and Zoology Departments at the University of Canterbury. The inclusion of material from these sources has helped maintain a high standard over the years.

Mauri Ora has a wide circulation which has steadily increased since 1973 and now includes New Zealand and 13 other countries. The journal is abstracted in a number of overseas publications and this has resulted in a potentially very wide audience. 1982 has seen the introduction of 'keywords' to help with computer retrieval of papers and this should further improve the distribution.

Afer 10 years publication it is appropriate to consider the future of Mauri Ora. A major and alarming trend has occurred in the last few years with the increasing reliance on a 'hard-core' of people for support. This has occurred at both the editorial-publication level and at the contribution level. Up to now the editing and publication of Mauri Ora has been largely undertaken by post-graduate research students in the Botany and Zoology Departments. With declining student numbers it is becoming increasingly more difficult to maintain Mauri Ora as a purely student publication. The help of Botany and Zoology Department staff members has always been appreciated, but it may soon become necessary for these people to fully take-over the publication of Mauri Ora.

The number of people contributing towards Mauri Ora has also declined in recent years and more frequently papers are coming from the same 'hard-core' group of people. Of all the papers published by Botany and Zoology Department staff members, nearly 40% have come from two people. If Mauri Ora is to continue as a viable journal it is essential that it receives the support of *all* the staff of the Botany and Zoology Departments, both in contributing papers themselves and encouraging students to do so. It will also become increasingly necessary in the future to actively seek elsewhere for contributions.